

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 22, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As representatives of communities devastated by spring flooding in Minnesota, we are writing to request your assistance in helping the residents of these areas recover.

For the third year in a row, the Red River of the North reached major flood stage. In addition, the Minnesota River crested at major flood level, and the Mississippi River crested five feet above flood stage in St. Paul. Even today, rivers around the state remain at flood stage, and likely will for weeks. These floods have caused widespread damage to public infrastructure.


The Governor of Minnesota has determined that these incidents are beyond the capability of our State and local governments to address on their own. All counties have experienced at least one federal disaster declaration in the past two years; five counties have experienced three federal disaster declarations. Governor Dayton is requesting Public Assistance for Categories A-G for the affected counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Given the widespread damage across our state, we write in strong support of the Governor's request and encourage you to issue a Disaster Declaration in a timely manner so activation of Federal programs to assist in the response and recovery efforts may begin.

These disasters are becoming all too common for Minnesotans. We are confident in their resilience and their ability to recover and rebuild, and we ask you to make the federal government a full partner in their effort.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your assistance in helping the recovery effort across Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



John Kline
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress